

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 698  
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article II, Section 3;  
and Article VII, Section 5; of the Constitution of  
the State of Tennessee, relative to elections.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONCURRING, that a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the  
yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that:

Article II, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by  
deleting the following language:

Representatives shall hold office for two years

and by substituting instead the following:

Representatives shall hold office for four years

Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by deleting Section  
5 and by substituting instead the following:

Section 5. Elections for Judicial and other Civil Officers shall be held on the first  
Thursday in August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and forever thereafter on  
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November next preceding the expiration of  
their respective terms of service. The term of each officer so elected shall be computed  
from the first day of December next succeeding his election. The term of office of the  
Governor and of other executive officers shall be computed from the fifteenth of January  
next after the election of the Governor. No appointment or election to fill a vacancy shall  
be made for a period extending beyond the unexpired term. Every officer shall hold his  
office until his successor is elected or appointed, and qualified. No special election shall  
be held to fill a vacancy in the office of Judge or District Attorney, but at the time herein



fixed for the biennial election of civil officers; and such vacancy shall be filled at the next biennial election recurring more than sixty days after the vacancy occurs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon ratification of the amendments proposed herein at the November 2006 general election, popular elections for senators and representatives shall commence at the November 2008 general election, provided, however, that in the November 2008 general election after adoption of this amendment representatives elected in districts designated by even numbers shall be elected for four years and those elected in districts designated by odd numbers shall be elected for two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon ratification of the amendments proposed herein the terms of Judges and other Judicial Officers with eight year terms shall be extended from the first day of September 2014 until the first day of December 2014 to allow for the change in election dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon ratification of the amendments proposed herein the terms of Civil Officers elected in 2004 shall be extended from the first day of September 2008 until the first day of December 2008 to allow for the change in election dates; and that the terms of Civil Officers elected in 2006 shall be extended from the first day of September 2010 until the first day of December 2010 to allow for the change in election dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing be referred to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published in accordance with Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Senate is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State.